



COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE

REPORT

OF THE

Medical and Health
Services 1942

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Annual Report of the Medical and Health Services, 1942

I. ADMINISTRATION.

1. *Staff.*—Three newly appointed Medical Officers (Colonial Medical Service) arrived during the year. One was appointed Port Health Officer and two to the Sleeping Sickness Campaign.

2. One temporary Medical Officer (Sierra Leone) resigned. The department has been short of Medical Officers; the work of the Surgeon Specialist was carried out by an Army Surgeon kindly lent by the Assistant Director of Medical Services, Area, during the absence of the Surgeon Specialist, due to illness, from 29th September to the end of the year.

3. One Senior Nursing Sister retired and a second Sierra Leone nurse trained in England was appointed Senior Staff Nurse.

4. Two Sanitary Superintendents were appointed and were employed in anti-malarial work in and around Freetown. One Senior Sanitary Superintendent retired on pension.

5. The scheme for regrading of subordinate staff to ensure more rapid promotion of outstanding individuals was drawn up and will be shortly applied.

6. The need for the provision of training more subordinate staff of Protectorate origin, for dealing with the increased work in the Protectorate, became more apparent and a scheme for their training at Bo has been recommended to Government.

7. The Training School for Native Administrations Sanitary Headmen was opened and the training of the first batch of pupils begun.

8. *Finance.*—The approved estimates for 1942 were :—

	<i>Head.</i>	<i>Personal Emoluments.</i>	<i>Other Charges.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Medical	£48,247	£40,630
Health	16,064	19,120
			£64,311	£59,750
				£124,061

It was decided to amalgamate the Medical and Health Votes in 1943.

9. Expenditure from grants from Imperial Funds were approved as follows :—

(a) Trypanosomiasis Service	...	...	...	...	£9,000
(b) Treatment of Yaws	...	...	...	...	400
(c) Malaria Investigation	...	...	...	...	8,072

(c) was provided to carry out temporary anti-mosquito measures in an area contained within a five miles radius of the Law Courts, Freetown, including Kissy and the Bullom Shore, and for the provision of an anti-malarial engineer and staff to draw up a scheme of permanent drainage for which further funds will be asked.

10. *Legislation.*—The following were enacted :—

1. Provision for the Compulsory Inoculation of Persons against Yellow Fever—Yellow Fever Ordinance No. 6 of 1942.
2. Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1924—No. 13 of 1942.

3. The Public Health (Protectorate) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926—No. 14 of 1942.
4. The Public Health (Protectorate) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926—No. 28 of 1942.
5. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54)—Public Notice No. 15 of 1942.
6. The Public Health (Waterloo Slaughterhouse) Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 17 of 1942.
7. The Animals' Diseases Rules, 1942—Public Notice No. 30 of 1942.
8. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54)—Public Notice No. 64 of 1942.
9. The Public Health (Protectorate) Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 63 of 1942.
10. The Public Health (Protectorate) (Amendment) Rules, 1942—Public Notice No. 66 of 1942.
11. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54)—Public Notice No. 82 of 1942.
12. The Public Health Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 93 of 1942.
13. The Public Health Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 94 of 1942.
14. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54)—Public Notice No. 103 of 1942.
15. The Public Health Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 110 of 1942.
16. The Public Health Order in Council, 1942—Public Notice No. 111 of 1942.

11. *Medical Stores.*—Good progress has been made in the reorganisation of this section of the Medical Department. The system of accounting has been greatly improved and the training of African Storekeeping Staff has proceeded satisfactorily.

Further progress has also been made in the standardisation of hospital and dispensary supplies and in the improvement of their equipment.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH.

12. The work of the department continues to increase. The figures for inpatients at the Connaught Hospital are slightly down as a result of the large number of motor accidents needing longer periods of hospitalization. Increased motor accident cases are due to the very great increase in motor traffic.
13. The building, in temporary materials, of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Pujehun was begun and should result in reducing maternal and infant deaths at childbirth. The Medical Officer, who is himself a Mende, has gained the confidence of the people and has given a number of local midwives an elementary training in asepsis and midwifery thus going some way towards replacing the present harmful and brutal methods ordinarily practised by native midwives. A third of the total births in the district were conducted by these partly trained women, or under their supervision. Two more such centres are envisaged for next year.

14. The provision of a considerably enlarged hospital at Bo, mentioned in last year's report could not be proceeded with owing to the impossibility of obtaining permanent materials and staff to build it. Consequently plans for an extension of Bo Hospital to 70 beds, in temporary materials, were prepared; funds have been provided from the Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund. It is hoped that a start will be made on the building early next year when application will be made for an annual grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund to provide for the extra staff required.

15. *Colony*.—Connaught Hospital :—

			1940	1941	1942
1. Inpatients	...	...	2,612	3,762	3,064
2. Outpatients :					
New Cases	...	...	22,718	25,061	26,007
Subsequent attendances	...	...	108,192	116,139	89,491
3. Venereal Diseases Clinic :—					
(a) Seamen's Clinic :					
Total attendances	...	...	820	—	2,152
(b) General Clinic :					
New Cases	...	...	1,311	—	1,092
Subsequent attendances	...	...	4,926	—	2,136
European Hospital :—					
1. Inpatients	...	...	335	514	564
2. Outpatients :					
New Cases	...	...	—	163	162
Subsequent attendances	...	...	—	332	331

Colony Dispensaries :—

New Cases	...	...	...	—	26,589	31,293
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	—	62,282	116,357

16. *Protectorate*.—The total figures for the Protectorate are :—

1. Inpatients	...	...	...	...	2,608	2,718
2. Outpatients :—						
New Cases	...	...	...	...	52,450	122,187
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	163,094	360,053

17. *Communicable Diseases*.—The following is a summary of the more important diseases :—

18. *Trypanosomiasis*.—Team work in the epidemic area proceeded on the same lines as previously. More chiefdoms contiguous to the area have been surveyed and treated, and all those areas which in 1940 and 1941 had been found to have an incidence of over 3·5 per cent. treated a second time.

Year.	Population Examined.	S.S. Cases Treated.	Incidence per cent.	Yaws Cases Treated.
1939	...	2,270	736	—
1940	...	19,300	3,063	15.9
1941	...	57,405	2,577	4.5
1942	...	91,307	2,751	3.0
Total	...	170,282	9,127	—
				14,612

19. In addition to the above some 40,000 people have been examined for sleeping sickness in other parts of the Protectorate in the course of sampling surveys. The reduction of sleeping sickness is shown as follows :—

	<i>Incidence 1940 or 1941</i>	<i>Incidence 1942.</i>
Kissi Chiefdoms (part) ...	... 20·3 per cent.	4·9 per cent.
Mofindo Chiefdom (Kono District) ...	... 8·5 „	1·0 „
Gbane Kando (Kono District) ...	... 14·4 „	3·2 „
Soa (part) (Kono District) ...	... 6·5 „	4·7 „
Luawa (Kailahun District) ...	... 5·8 „	2·6 „
Upper Bambara (Kailahun District) ...	... 5·1 „	2·3 „

20. One fresh endemic sleeping sickness area, on Sherbro Island, was discovered, the incidence being 3 per cent. This outbreak probably has no connection with the epidemic on the eastern area but probably represents a flare up of an incidence of low infectivity.

21. *Yaws.*—There were 36,136 cases treated. Of these 6,531 were treated by the sleeping sickness teams. Results of treatment have been good but migratory and casual movements have prevented eradication in the areas covered by the sleeping sickness teams. A considerable number of cases crossed the border into Sierra Leone for treatment.

22. *Malaria.*—29,181 cases were treated in the various hospitals and dispensaries.

23. Temporary drainage and other measures of larval control continued as in last year, and a chain of "control houses" were established as a check on the success of these measures. The greatest reduction of adult house incidence was at Kissy, where the maximum catch in October, 1942, was 3 in one room (spraying on to sheets) as against a maximum of 187 in one room in October, 1940 (hand-catching).

24. An Area Board for the co-ordination of measures for the protection of airfields was established and the Army Malariaologist appointed Adviser. As a result the removal of reservoirs in proximity to Waterloo airfields was begun and anti-malarial measures around both airfields intensified.

25. Two of the large swamps in the vicinity of Bo have been drained and the work at Batkanu completed.

26. *Yellow Fever.*—Two cases, both Europeans and from the same source, occurred in a military camp near Allen Town in January and February. Intensive anti-larval measures were carried out in the villages of Allen Town and Grafton. All the houses were sprayed regularly for a month and all local inhabitants inoculated. No further cases occurred.

27. In Freetown 99,600 compound inspections revealed 248 collections of larvae of which 156 were Aedes, drains and cess-pits were treated with oil 9,469 and 61,603 times respectively; 32,676 tree inspections and 4,078 canoe inspections were made. The Civil Defence storage water tanks (when filled with sea-water) were found to breed Culex Thalassius, a potential carrier, prolifically.

28. *Plague.*—During the year 6,389 rats were caught and 3,287 examined; all were found negative. 2,142 fleas from live rats caught were examined.

29. 3,788 dogs were destroyed in Freetown. Suspected dogs were subjected to post-mortem examination and negri bodies were found in thirteen.

30. Eighty-five licensed dogs were inoculated. No case of human rabies occurred.

III. VITAL STATISTICS.

31. The system of registration in Freetown and the Colony remains the same.
 BIRTHS AND DEATHS—FREETOWN AND COLONY.

District.	BIRTHS.								
	1940			1941			1942		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Freetown ...	... 691	719	1,410	743	762	1,505	809	810	1,619
Rest of Colony	... 570	583	1,153	544	528	1,072	502	479	981
	1,261	1,302	2,563	1,287	1,290	2,577	1,311	1,289	2,600
DEATHS.									
District	1940			1941			1942		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Freetown ...	... 853	687	1,540	1,271	862	2,133	1,330	871	2,201
Rest of Colony	... 761	618	1,376	949	493	1,622	940	641	1,581
	1,614	1,305	2,916	2,220	1,355	3,755	2,270	1,512	3,782

32. Births and Deaths in the Protectorate were :—

	Births.	Deaths.
Male	986 907
Female	965 755

33. The re-organised system of registration in the Protectorate has not yet begun to function owing to delay in the printing of the required forms and registers.

34. *Infant Mortality.*—Out of 1,619 births in Freetown 314 deaths under one year were registered giving an infant mortality rate of 193. The figures for the past five years are :—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
192	190	180	207	193

Of the 314 deaths under one year 43.6 per cent. died in the first month of life, and a considerable number of them, and also still births may be ascribed to malnutrition of the mothers.

IV. GENERAL MEASURES OF SANITATION.

34. A successful start was made in disposing of refuse in Freetown, which amounts to about sixty tons a day, by controlled dumping in the mangrove swamp at the head of Whiteman's Bay. This measure will release the refuse trains for use for other purposes, the rolling stocks being urgently required by the Railway, and should convert a useless swamp into a useful stretch of ground. No nuisance has as yet arisen.

36. The Freetown markets remain in their rather lamentable state. No improvement in night soil disposal has been effected.

37. *Water Supply.*—Rationing was in force from 6th February to 25th May. Bacteriological examinations of the Freetown water supply continued to give good results.

38. The new storage reservoir at Hill Station was nearly completed, as was also the Naval supply from Charlotte Falls to Kissy.

V. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

39. The sanitary condition of most schools in Freetown has not been improved by the fact that a number of schools have been taken over by the Military. In some cases the schoolchildren are being taught in improvised schoolrooms under churches. No improvements have been possible during the year.

VI. LABOUR CONDITIONS.

40. The formation of Labour Battalions has not yet had any appreciable effect on the overcrowded conditions under which labourers live in Freetown and Colony villages adjacent to works, and otherwise labourers' conditions are very much the same as in last year.

VII. HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

41. No work was done with regard to slum clearance as there is no means in Freetown of replacing houses demolished.

42. The mushroom growth of grass shacks which have sprung up in the vicinity of airfields and other works in the Colony has been checked and the building of temporary houses has been brought under better control.

43. In the Protectorate the flood of money pouring into the country, together with the lack of things for the people to spend their money on, has resulted in a great increase in building in most areas. The existing Building Rules are being amended and brought up to date.

VIII—PORT HEALTH WORK AND ADMINISTRATION.

44. No case of quarantinable disease occurred. The Port Health Officer is carrying out the recommendations of the Wilson Commission regarding malaria among seamen. Port Health work is very seriously hampered by the lack of suitable launch transport.

IX—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

45. The Maternity Hospital dealt with 1,059 admissions which is 168 more than in 1941. Of these 438 were for ante-natal treatment and 621 for confinement.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	1,500
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	9,838
Home Visits	...	...	...	...	4,128

POST-NATAL CLINIC :—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	716
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	962

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC :—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	761
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	14,375
Home Visits	...	...	...	...	15,136

X—PRISONS.

46. The Freetown Prison is still overcrowded, the average daily number being in the region of 500, the gaol having been built for 240.

47. 621 were admitted to hospital and 6,816 dealt with as out-patients.

G. R. WALLER,
Acting Director of Medical Services.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE,
16th April, 1943.

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

EUROPEANS.

AFRICANS.

	Diseases.	In-Patients		Deaths.		Out-Patients		In-Patients		Deaths.		Out-Patients	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	(a) Typhoid fever	... 3	1	—	—	—	—	25	4	8	1	2	2
	(b) Paratyphoid fever	... 4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Typhus	... —	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—
3.	Relapsing fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Undulant fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Small Pox	... —	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Measles	... —	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	1	—	156	89
7.	Scarlet fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5
8.	Whooping cough	... —	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	191	106
9.	Diphtheria	... —	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	3	1	17	64
10.	Influenza :—												
	(a) with respiratory complications	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) without respiratory complications	... 3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	25	24
11.	Cholera	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Dysentery :—												
	(a) Amœbic	... 9	—	—	—	1	—	48	15	6	1	86	66
	(b) Bacillary	... 8	3	—	—	5	6	19	13	4	3	9	2
	(c) Unclassified	... —	—	—	—	—	—	14	5	1	2	142	93
13.	Plague :—												
	(a) Bubonic	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	9
	(b) Pneumonic	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(c) Septicæmic	... —	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	47	46
14.	Acute poliomyelitis	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
15.	Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Cerebro-spinal fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	26	8	13	3	1	1
17.	Rabies	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Tetanus	... —	—	—	—	—	—	17	10	6	5	9	13
19.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	... 4	—	—	—	—	—	44	15	15	4	55	21
20.	Other tuberculosis diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	14	11	6	2	13	4
21.	Leprosy	... —	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	4	—	77	70
22.	Venereal diseases :—												
	(a) Syphilis	... 14	—	—	—	23	—	50	7	2	2	415	324
	(b) Gonorrhœa	... 11	—	—	—	15	—	61	21	10	2	1,542	229
	(c) Other venereal diseases	—	—	—	—	20	—	113	34	5	1	215	109
23.	Yellow Fever	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Malaria :—												
	(a) Benign tertian	... 1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	2
	(b) Subtertian	... 138	3	1	—	27	9	137	76	2	5	182	70
	(c) Quartan	... —	—	—	—	53	1	4	5	1	2	12	5
	(d) Unclassified	... 50	2	1	—	74	3	181	136	7	10	5,792	2,460
25.	Blackwater fever	... 2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Kala-azar	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Trypanosomiasis	... —	—	—	—	—	—	10	4	2	—	321	216
28.	Yaws	... —	—	—	—	—	—	35	23	2	1	10,355	8,415
29.	Other protozoal diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	1	14	8
30.	Ankylostomiasis	... 3	—	—	—	2	—	48	13	1	2	124	65
31.	Schistosomiasis	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	3
32.	Other helminthic diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	57	13	3	—	1,949	2,079
33.	Other infectious or parasitic diseases	... 1	—	—	—	5	—	41	9	4	—	371	152
34.	Cancer and other tumours :—												
	(a) Malignant	... 1	—	—	—	4	—	15	17	3	2	10	9
	(b) Non-malignant	... —	—	—	—	—	—	20	67	—	1	22	31
	(c) Undetermined	... —	—	—	—	1	—	18	15	1	1	11	24
35.	Rheumatic conditions	... —	—	—	—	17	—	55	28	2	5	4,191	2,627
36.	Diabetes	... 3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
37.	Scurvy	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38.	Beriberi	... —	—	—	—	—	—	24	8	3	—	22	5
39.	Pellagra	... —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40.	Other diseases :—												
	(a) Nutritional	... —	—	—	—	—	—	50	58	2	2	2,802	823
	(b) Endocrine glands and general	... —	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	2	39	16

EUROPEANS.

AFRICANS.

	Diseases.	In-Patients. M. F.	Deaths. M. F.	Out-Patients. M. F.	In-Patients. M. F.	Deaths. M. F.	Out-Patients. M. F.
41.	Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs ...	8 —	— —	8 3	60 15	4 —	366 382
42.	Acute and chronic poisoning ...	— —	— —	1 —	27 8	— —	6 2
43.	Cerebral haemorrhage ...	— —	— —	— —	4 2	2 —	— —
44.	Other diseases of the nervous system ...	25 1	1 —	29 8	106 26	20 3	408 376
45.	Trachoma ...	— —	— —	6 2	1 —	— —	3 4
46.	Other diseases of the eye and annexa ...	— —	— —	21 4	56 19	2 —	1,292 414
47.	Diseases of the ear and mastoid sinus ...	6 —	— —	59 4	7 6	— —	621 369
48.	Diseases of the circulatory system :—						
(a)	Heart ...	6 —	1 —	2 1	88 33	22 8	248 176
(b)	Other circulatory diseases ...	6 —	— —	1 5	39 10	6 3	203 85
49.	Bronchitis ...	8 —	— —	25 2	113 44	4 3	5,693 2,825
50.	Pneumonia :—						
(a)	Broncho-pneumonia ...	1 —	— —	— —	40 33	11 7	32 30
(b)	Lobar pneumonia ...	— —	— —	— —	245 41	24 6	32 15
(c)	Otherwise defined ...	— —	— —	— —	69 22	8 2	66 25
51.	Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	8 —	— —	36 10	34 6	4 —	1,695 831
52.	Diarrhoea and enteritis :—						
(a)	Under two years of age ...	— —	— —	7 —	8 7	— 2	207 158
(b)	Over two years of age ...	6 1	— —	42 4	74 25	6 7	1,082 434
53.	Appendicitis ...	12 —	— —	3 —	7 3	— 1	4 8
54.	Hernia, intestinal obstruction ...	— —	— —	1 —	436 25	24 2	1,167 168
55.	Cirrhosis of the liver ...	— —	— —	— —	12 4	4 1	4 4
56.	Other diseases of the liver and biliary passages ...	6 —	1 —	1 —	38 13	4 —	124 30
57.	Other diseases of the digestive system ...	38 2	— —	78 13	105 44	9 —	3,935 2,646
58.	Nephritis :—						
(a)	Acute ...	7 —	— —	3 1	4 1	— —	26 14
(b)	Chronic ...	2 —	— —	2 2	20 6	6 2	40 33
59.	Other non-venereal diseases of the genito-urinary system ...	14 2	— —	19 3	62 51	6 1	689 1,024
60.	Diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state :—						
(a)	Abortion ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	45 —	— —
(b)	Ectopic gestation ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1
(c)	Toxaemias of pregnancy ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	260 5	— —
(d)	Other conditions of the puerperal state ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	682 8	— 59
61.	Diseases of the skin, cellular tissue, bones and organs of locomotion ...	95 —	— —	86 13	712 246	17 9	10,864 4,324
62.	Congenital malformation and diseases of early infancy :—						
(a)	Congenital debility ...	— —	— —	— —	10 8	7 6	15 11
(b)	Premature birth ...	— —	— —	— —	12 15	6 7	96 130
(c)	Injury at birth ...	— —	— —	— —	3 3	3 3	1 —
63.	Senility ...	— —	— —	— —	19 8	3 —	91 80
64.	External causes :—						
(a)	Suicide ...	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
(b)	Other forms of violence ...	12 —	— —	15 —	481 88	34 8	5,786 943
65.	Ill-defined causes ...	25 7	— —	11 8	127 27	11 3	317 207

Total ... 542 22 5 — 712 102 3,182 2,467 367 156 64,356 34,468

This table represents cases treated in Government Hospitals only.